



CONTINUATION OF AN 'EXPERIENCE'

By Mr. Anantha Prasad (India 1997)

My enrolment at WMU was by sheer chance. So was my sponsorship from The Nippon Foundation. The letter of admission to WMU in February 1996 was a very pleasant surprise. It was a very exciting moment - the first time I was getting an opportunity to do a master's degree in Shipping, a subject I was dealing with as a part of my profession. The place was even more exciting - Sweden. Leaving family behind was a difficult choice but I had to comfort myself knowing it was for my future.

Traveling to Malmö from Copenhagen on a passenger ferry and the experience at WMU was unforgettable. Sea travel was another first for me, as was the snow I saw on the way.

I am now reaping the benefits of the invaluable knowledge I gained at WMU. I

have been lucky enough to be back with the same portfolio I held before. Any subject I deal with concerning shipping - be it Maritime Law, IMO matters or others, is no longer strange to me. After all, this is what was intended by the people who established WMU, to make you feel at ease with the subject you are dealing with, through that all important stint at Malmö.

Visiting Japan twice by being lucky enough to have been sponsored by The Nippon Foundation was the most remarkable of my Malmö experiences. On the second occasion, being in the midst of my classmates, friends once again, felt as I'd never left WMU. The 'Friends of WMU, Japan' activities have this as their objective. What more can I wish for than the opportunity to continue my WMU experience?

Message from the Secretariat

Deepest sympathy to our friend

The husband of Ms. Ninfa Martinez (1997), a member of The Association of WMU-Sasakawa Fellows (Philippine Chapter), Inc., passed away on June 24, 2003. The late Mr. Edgar Martinez was also a graduate of WMU. Our profound condolences to Ninfa and her family members.

We welcome your contribution to Newsletter/Website

The Secretariat invites you to contribute either to the Newsletter or the Website. Photographs are also welcome. (We prefer to have printed copies sent by post, but for those who wish to send by e-mail, the resolution must be at least 400 dpi.) Please note, however, that due to space limitations, some contributions might be reduced in volume, held over to the next issue, or be changed for inclusion in the website at the Secretariat's discretion.

Editor's Postscript

One year has passed since we started this newsletter. In the beginning stages, we did not have any expertise in publishing newsletters so we struggled with our new tasks. We are now on our fourth issue, due to the great efforts of the staff at the Ship & Ocean Foundation. It is deeply gratifying for me to review this year and realize this newsletter will continue to be published. The work of the editorial members including the staff of SOF is getting on track, and we just wish we could print more of the many letters from members of the Friends of WMU, Japan, in the limited space of the newsletter.

Some Sasakawa fellows met with Mr Sasakawa in Malmö during the week of the celebration of the 20th

Anniversary of WMU in June. Unfortunately, I could not be there due to the 77th session of the MSC meeting, but I know that it was a great opportunity to exchange views with Mr Sasakawa as well as to expand the Fellows' network. WMU was established in 1983 and the Sasakawa fellowship started five years after the establishment of the University with more than 200 Sasakawa Fellows from 39 countries participating. Strengthening the network among them will greatly help them play an important role in their respective countries.

Ko KOISO

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NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU JAPAN

The world is a family, and all humankind are brothers and sisters.

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Sasakawa Fellows Celebrated the 20th Anniversary of WMU



Sasakawa Fellows with Mr. Sasakawa at the Japanese Honorary Consulate, Malmö

A unanimous consensus among frequent visitors to Malmö may be that June is the best time to visit the third largest Swedish city blessed with rich greenery. The time is June, and the scene is Malmö. What else is missing to make commemorative events a great success, which mark the 20th anniversary of WMU, now a significant educational landmark in Malmö?

The 20th Anniversary Celebration of WMU (June 3-4) was preceded by another memorable event, and the evening of June 2 added to the festive mood of the week. Sasakawa Fellows, graduates and current students, welcomed Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of "Friends of WMU, Japan," to a

reception at the Japanese Honorary Consulate building. Representing the current students, Mr. Mohab Mahmoud Ahmed Abou-el Kawam (Egypt 2003) gave a welcoming speech. "Our gratitude to this great man (Mr. Sasakawa) will not only be in the form of words, but also by sharing his great vision. Ladies and gentlemen, as Sasakawa Fellows, we promise Mr. Sasakawa that his aim and vision is extended by every one of us throughout our careers," he said.

Notwithstanding the long flight from Tokyo, Mr. Sasakawa talked intimately with each participant. In his greeting, Mr. Sasakawa called on the current students to help each other not only while studying in

Malmö, but also after graduation by working together for the international maritime community.

The graduate Sasakawa Fellows who attended the reception were Mr. Gao Deyi (China 1995); Mr. George Reynolds (Jamaica 2000); Ms. Viktoriya Radchenko (Ukraine 2001); Mr. Robertas Tarasevicius (Lithuania 1999), and Mr. Abdul Samad bin Zainal Akbar (Malaysia 1992). Among the guests who were kind enough to come to the reception were Dr. Karl Laubstein and WMU staff members; former rector Dr. Danny Waters; Honorary Consul General of Japan, Dr. Nils Stormby, and Professor Kenji Ishida of Kobe University of Mercantile Marine.